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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6225

GARYL D. CHRISTIANSON, STAFF DIRECTOR  
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February 17, 1988

The Honorable William Webster  
Director of Central Intelligence  
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Director Webster:

As you know, the Committee on Foreign Relations received very significant sworn testimony last week that indicated that the CIA and the National Security Council have maintained, and/or furnished to certain Panamanian officials, information on certain Members of Congress and their staffs. Since you are charged with responsibility for all agencies under the National Security Act of 1947, as amended, I am writing to you to address these issues.

Inasmuch as Mr. Jose Blandon has appeared at the request of U.S. law enforcement agencies as a witness in major criminal procedures, his credibility appears to be high. Additionally, I have received similar reports coming from sources in other countries which parallel the sworn testimony with regard to the CIA furnishing similar information on other Senators.

I have no fear of correct information maintained on me; nonetheless, it is improper and illegal for the CIA to maintain such files. This is especially so inasmuch as the CIA has access to background check files, which include much uncorroborated data, for all security clearances.

Should a situation ever develop in which information, particularly unevaluated information, is transferred to another government, thereby interfering with the constitutional responsibility of Members of Congress and their staffs, it calls into question the integrity of our intelligence security institutions.

For these reasons, I submit the following questions, answers to which I hope can be provided in unclassified form. In answering these questions, please do not rely on files alone, since the information allegedly passed may have been passed back channel, without files being maintained. It is imperative that an internal investigation be conducted and

all employees in contact with Panamanian government or military officials be questioned.

Has any employee, contract employee, or agent of the CIA -- or any other entity associated with it, including other agencies under the National Security Act of 1947, as amended -- ever maintained information -- including biographies, reports of activities, summaries of political philosophy, or other information -- on Members of Congress or their staffs? If so, which persons, when, and under what circumstances?

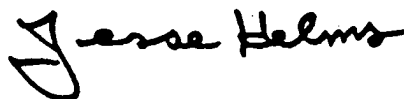
Has any employee, contract employee, or agent of the CIA -- or any other entity associated with it, including other agencies under the National Security Act of 1947, as amended -- ever furnished verbal or written information officially or unofficially on Members of Congress or their staffs to any official of a foreign government, and specifically to the government of Panama or the Panama Defense Forces under General Manuel Noriega? If so, which persons, when, and under what circumstances? (Interestingly, I understand that after the CIA publicly denied Blandon's testimony, an inquiry was made to CIA field offices and to NFIB agencies querying whether the denial was accurate. Please include a copy of this message and all responses.)

Because of your previous association with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, I would also ask the following questions, also to be answered in unclassified form to the maximum extent possible.

Did the FBI ever turn over to the CIA or other intelligence agencies any information on Members of Congress or their staffs?

Has the FBI ever initiated wiretaps or surveillance on me or members of my staff, with or without warrant? If so, when, for what reasons, and under what legal authority?

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Jesse Helms". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font. The first letter "J" is large and loops around the "esse". The last name "Helms" is written in a more straightforward cursive style.

JESSE HELMS